


ANGLER GUIDE



The boundary between what is considered the South Grand River and Truman Reservoir is the Old Highway 18 Bridge. This bridge is located one mile downstream of the New Highway 18 Bridge, in Henry County. Truman Reservoir regulations apply below the bridge and Missouri Statewide Regulations apply upstream of the bridge. Access to the lower end of the river can be reached from Martinville Road (Henry Co. 351) on the south side of the river. This access is on Truman Reservoir. Depending on lake elevation, this reach has river characteristics and you can boat upstream to where statewide regulations apply (Note: Truman Reservoir regulations apply while on the waters of Truman Reservoir). Urich Access is just south of the town of Urich on Highway K. Both accesses have launch ramps and parking areas. The ramp at Martinville Road Access is gravel and is subject to flooding depending on the elevation of Truman Reservoir. River accesses are also located at Settle's Ford Conservation Area in Bates/Cass counties and the Archie Access just east of Archie in Cass County. Neither location has a boat ramp.

Catfish – catfish on the South Grand River are king. The South Grand holds a good population of flathead catfish and several large fish. Flatheads are best caught on live bait. Trotlines and limblines set in or near good cover such as brush piles are the best producing areas. Flatheads can also be caught on rod and reel and bite best during river rises. Blue catfish are also plentiful on the South Grand, especially the lower reaches closest to Truman Reservoir. Blue catfish usually run up the river with spring rains, and this is the time that larger blues are caught. Fresh cut bait is the best option for blue catfish. Blues readily bite on cut shad, carp, or drum. Worms or crayfish are also good bait for blues and smaller flatheads. The entire South Grand and most of its larger tributaries have good populations of channel catfish. Channel catfish bite well on worms or prepared bait, with rising water being the best condition.

Crappie – spring runs of crappie are common on the lower South Grand, and there is a fishable population of resident crappie found in the river. Productive areas include mouths of feeder creeks, field drainage pipes, and pools below riffles. White colored grubs or tube jigs and minnows are the best bet as the water is stained to muddy colored much of the time.

White bass and Hybrid Striped bass – spring runs of these are common on the lower and middle South Grand. Fishing pressure is light and fishing can be very productive at times. The best places to try include shallower areas with swifter current and field drainage pipes where shad tend to congregate in the warmer, nutrient-rich water. White grubs on eighth or quarter ounce jigs work well for white bass. Minnows also work well.

Paddlefish – paddlefish snagging season runs annually from March 15 to April 30 Paddlefish can be snagged on the South Grand during spring spawning runs. The South Grand has a large amount of woody debris so snagging should be done with caution. Several deep holes are found both above and below New Highway 18.

Walleye – prior to the impounding of Truman Reservoir, the South Grand harbored a quality walleye population. Currently walleye fishing in the river is limited with reports of a few fish each year. The walleye population in Truman Reservoir continues to improve with annual stockings. This should have a positive effect on the South Grand population.

Carp, Gar, Drum, and Buffalo - rough fish are abundant in the South Grand and can be caught by a number of methods. Fishing with worms or nightcrawlers while the river is rising is the best option. Bowfishing for these species is also popular and productive.